

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 10, 2012

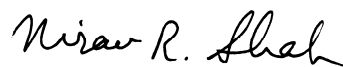
Dear Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Local Health Department Commissioners and Directors,

In keeping with our efforts to reform health and health care in New York, I am writing to request your collaboration in community health assessment and community health improvement planning in the coming year. In conjunction with the development of the state's new health improvement plan, the *Prevention Agenda 2013*, and the Department's interest in collaborative, regional planning as described in the Medicaid Redesign Waiver, we are asking local health departments and hospitals to work together with community partners to assess the health challenges in communities, identify local priorities and develop and implement plans to address them. It is my expectation that each local health department and hospital will, together, with other partners, identify and develop a plan for addressing at least two priorities in the new Prevention Agenda. At least one of these priorities should address a health disparity. For counties without hospitals, we can facilitate a regional planning process to identify priorities with regional hospitals.

Prevention Agenda 2013 will be released at the end of 2012. Developed by a diverse group of stakeholders, the plan identifies goals and measurable objectives and a range of evidence based and promising practices in five priority areas that can be implemented by public health, health care and community partners to address each priority area. The Agenda focuses on the social determinants of health and on addressing health disparities along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. But we can't achieve any of these ambitious goals without the full participation of our public health and health care community.

The attached guidance provides a description of the essential elements of a community health assessment, a community health improvement plan and a community service plan. Technical assistance on developing collaborations to conduct these planning processes will be available once the Prevention Agenda is released at the end of the year. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Leslie, Deputy Director, Office of Health Systems Management, Division of Certification and Surveillance, rwl01@health.state.ny.us, phone number 518-402-1003; or Sylvia Pirani, Director, Office of Public Health Practice at sjp03@health.state.ny.us, phone number 518-473-4223.

Sincerely,



Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

Attachment